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Committee for Programme and Coordination
Forty-fourth session
7 June-2 July 2004
Agenda item 8
Adoption of the report of the Committee on its forty-fourth session

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Draft report

Addendum

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2006-2007

Part two: biennial programme plan

(Item 3(b))

Programme 10
Trade and development

1. At its 17th meeting, on 21 June 2004, the Committee for Programme and Coordination considered programme 10, Trade and development, of the proposed biennial programme plan (A/59/6 (Prog. 10)).

2. The representative of the Secretary-General introduced the programme and responded to queries raised during the Committee's consideration of the programme.

Discussion

3. Support was expressed for the programme of work of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the International Trade Centre UNCTAD/World Trade Organization (WTO) (ITC). The role of UNCTAD as the principle entity of the United Nations for trade and development was emphasized. It was mentioned that the cooperation among UNCTAD, the Bretton Woods institutions and WTO should be enhanced. Emphasis was placed on the better integration of developing countries into the world economy as well as on market access for the products of developing countries.

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4. The importance and usefulness of the technical assistance activities, as well as the increasing demand for such services, was recognized.

5. The efforts to support Africa's economic development and integration into the world economy were welcomed. UNCTAD was urged to treat the problem of debt in the developing countries as a priority. It was mentioned that UNCTAD has the capacity to assist countries in the management of their debt through its debt management and financial analysis system programme. The view was expressed that the concerns of developing countries should receive particular attention.

6. The question of the status of the review of the biennial programme plan by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of UNCTAD was raised. The representative of the Secretary-General clarified that the Working Party had met before UNCTAD XI in order to review the biennial programme plan of programme 10, Trade and development, for the period 2006-2007 (subprogrammes 1 to 5). Since it could not conclude its work due to pending issues in the São Paolo negotiating process, the Working Party had agreed to meet again after the conference, on 5 July 2004, in order to finalize its review on the basis of the final outcome of the Conference. The outcome of the review of the Working Party would then be transmitted to the Committee in accordance with established procedure. As to subprogramme 6, it was understood that the subprogramme had been reviewed in May 2004 by the Joint Advisory Group, which had recommended the inclusion of a reference to the Millennium Development Goals in the overall orientation of the subprogramme.

7. The view was expressed that the question of coordination with other entities of the United Nations system, such as the Office of the United Nations High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Islands Developing States and the regional commissions, should be reflected in the strategic framework. The view was also expressed that the objective of assisting countries in meeting challenges of trade and investment should be further strengthened.

8. It was mentioned that the objective under subprogramme 1 could be improved through a reference to the efforts of UNCTAD to reduce the negative impact of globalization. It was also mentioned that a reference to the countries with economies in transition should be included under the same subprogramme.

9. The view was expressed that UNCTAD had a role to play in the graduation process of the least developed countries, and that a reference to strengthen the capacity of least developed countries could be inserted under subprogramme 5.

10. The work of UNCTAD on the *Least Developed Countries Report* was commended. The view was expressed that the *Report* should be issued on an annual basis since it was recognized to be very informative and to help the least developed countries to better deal with their problems.

Conclusions and recommendations

11. **The Committee recommended that the General Assembly consider at its fifty-ninth session the proposed strategic framework of programme 10, Trade and development, for the period 2006-2007, in the light of the recommendations made by the Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget of UNCTAD at its resumed forty-second session.**